CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method of operating on a virtual content repository (VCR) that represents a plurality of content repositories, comprising:

creating a node, wherein the node has an identifier that indicates a location of the node in said VCR;

associating the node with at least one of: 1) a property; and 2) a schema;

storing the node in said VCR; and

wherein storing the node in said VCR will result in the at least one property and/or schema being stored in one of said plurality of content repositories.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the property is an association between a name and at least one value.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein:

the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an audio/visual presentation, or binary data.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

each one of the plurality of content repositories exposes a first set of services to enable its integration into the VCR.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the schema includes at least one property definition.

6.   The method of claim 5 wherein:

a property definition can specify at least one of the following for a property:

property choices;

a reference;

a data type;

whether the property is mandatory;

whether the property is multi-valued;

whether the property is primary;

whether the property is read-only; and

whether the property is restricted.

7.   The method of claim 5 wherein:

there is one property definition for each property associated with the node.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

the node can be hierarchically related to other nodes in the VCR.

9.   A method of operating on a virtual content repository (VCR) that represents a plurality of content repositories, comprising:

obtaining a node from said VCR, wherein the node has an identifier that indicates a location of the node in said VCR;

wherein the node is associated with information that includes at least one of: 1) a property; and 2) a schema;

wherein the node information is stored in at least one of said plurality of content repositories; and

wherein each one of the plurality of content repositories exposes a first set of services to enable its integration into the VCR.

10.   The method of claim 9 wherein:

a property is an association between a name and at least one value.

11.   The method of claim 10 wherein:

the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an audio/visual presentation, or binary data.

12.   The method of claim 9 wherein:

the identifier is a path.

13.   The method of claim 9 wherein:

a schema includes at least one property definition.

14.   The method of claim 13 wherein:

a property definition can specify at least one of the following for a property:

property choices;

a reference;

a data type;

whether the property is mandatory;

whether the property is multi-valued;

whether the property is primary;

whether the property is read-only; and

whether the property is restricted.

15.   The method of claim 13 wherein:

there is one property definition for each property associated with the node.

16.   The method of claim 9 wherein:

the node can be hierarchically related to other nodes in the VCR.

17.   A method of operating on a virtual content repository (VCR) wherein the VCR has a node and wherein said node is associated with information, said method comprising:

obtaining said node, wherein said node has an identifier that indicates a unique location in said VCR;

performing an operation on said node, wherein the operation is one of: 1) deleting said node; 2) changing the location of said node in the VCR; 3) reading said information; and 4) updating said information;

wherein the VCR represents a plurality of content repositories; and

wherein the information includes at least one of: 1) a property; and 2) a schema.

18.   The method of claim 17 wherein:

a property is an association between a name and at least one value.

19.   The method of claim 18 wherein:

the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an audio/visual presentation, or binary data.

wherein the VCR represents a plurality of content repositories.

26. The computer data signal of claim 25 wherein:

the property is an association between a name and at least one value.

27. The computer data signal of claim 26 wherein:

the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an audio/visual presentation, or binary data.

28. The computer data signal of claim 25 wherein:

each one of the plurality of content repositories exposes a first set of services to enable its integration into the VCR.

29. The computer data signal of claim 25 wherein:

a schema includes at least one property definition.

30. The computer data signal of claim 29 wherein:

a property definition can specify at least one of the following for a property:

property choices;

a reference;

a data type;

whether the property is mandatory;

whether the property is multi-valued;

whether the property is primary;

whether the property is read-only; and

whether the property is restricted.

31. The computer data signal of claim 29 wherein:

there is one property definition for each property associated with the node.

32. The computer data signal of claim 25 wherein:

the node can be hierarchically related to other nodes in the VCR.

33. A system comprising:

means for obtaining a node, wherein the node has an identifier that indicates a unique location in a virtual content repository (VCR), and wherein the node is associated with information;

means for performing an operation on the node, wherein the operation is one of: 1) deleting the node; 2) changing the location of the node in the VCR; 3) reading the information; and 4) updating the information;

wherein the VCR represents a plurality of content repositories; and

wherein the information includes at least one of: 1) a property; and 2) a schema.

34.   The system of claim 33 wherein:

the property is an association between a name and at least one value.

35.   The system of claim 34 wherein:

the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an audio/visual presentation, or binary data.

36.   The system of claim 33 wherein:

each one of the plurality of content repositories exposes a first set of services to enable its integration into the VCR.

37.   The system of claim 33 wherein:

a schema includes at least one property definition.

38.   The system of claim 37 wherein:

a property definition can specify at least one of the following for a property:

property choices;

a reference;

a data type;

whether the property is mandatory;

whether the property is multi-valued;

whether the property is primary;

whether the property is read-only; and

whether the property is restricted.

39.   The system of claim 37 wherein:

there is one property definition for each property associated with the node.

40.   The system of claim 33 wherein:

the node can be hierarchically related to other nodes in the VCR.

41.   A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause a system to:

obtain a node, wherein the node has an identifier that indicates a unique location in a virtual content repository (VCR), and wherein the node is associated with information;

perform an operation on the node, wherein the operation is one of: 1) deleting the node; 2) changing the location of the node in the VCR; 3) reading the information; and 4) updating the information;

wherein the VCR includes a plurality of content repositories; and

wherein the information includes at least one of: 1) a property; and 2) a schema.

42.   The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

the property is an association between a name and at least one value.

43.   The machine readable medium of claim 42 wherein:

the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an audio/visual presentation, or binary data.

44.   The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

each one of the plurality of content repositories exposes a first set of services to enable its integration into the VCR.

45.   The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

the schema includes at least one property definition.

46.   The machine readable medium of claim 45 wherein:

a property definition can specify at least one of the following for a property:

property choices;

a reference;

a data type;

whether the property is mandatory;

whether the property is multi-valued;

whether the property is primary;

whether the property is read-only; and

whether the property is restricted.

47.   The machine readable medium of claim 45 wherein:

there is one property definition for each property associated with the node.

48.   The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

the node can be hierarchically related to other nodes in the VCR.